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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/681,512	10/08/2003	Hung Yu Cheng	WWSM 2503 (WW/NP0303)	9655
321	7590	07/25/2006	EXAMINER	
SENNIGER POWERS ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE 16TH FLOOR ST LOUIS, MO 63102			GATES, ERIC ANDREW	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3722	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 24-30 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 8 May 2006.
2. Claims 2-15 and 23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 8 May 2006.
3. Applicant's election without traverse of species 4, claims 1 and 16-22, in the reply filed on 8 May 2006 is acknowledged.
4. Applicant's argument that claim 1 is generic to species 1 through 4 is persuasive. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Claim Objections

5. Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: The further comprising of first, second, third and fourth end portions in claim 20 is confusing when

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taken in consideration with the first and second end portions of parent claim 1 and the third and fourth end portions of parent claim 19. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 16, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dawson (U.S. Patent 2,041,168).

8. Regarding claim 1, Dawson discloses a ring mechanism for a loose-leaf binder (see figure 1) comprising: a thin, elongate plate 18, at least two ring members 15/16 supported by the elongate plate (through contact with plates 13 and 14) for relative movement of the ring members between an open position in which the ring members are spaced apart and loose-leaf pages may be received on and removed from at least one of the ring members, and a closed position in which the ring members are engaged to form a ring which is configured to capture the loose-leaf pages on the ring while permitting movement of the pages along the ring, the elongate plate 18 having longitudinal ends, at least one of the longitudinal ends including first 23 and second 24 end portions located on one transverse side of the elongate plate (see figure 10), said first and second end portions being bent over to present a longitudinally facing surface which is blunt (see figure 10).

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9. Regarding claim 16, Dawson discloses wherein said first 23 and second 24 end portions are in flatwise contact with one another (see figure 10).

10. Regarding claim 22, Dawson discloses the ring mechanism being secured to the loose-leaf binder (see figure 1):

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 17-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric A. Gates whose telephone number is 571-272-5498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:45-6:15.

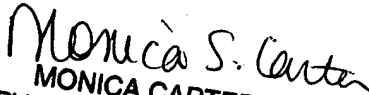
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



EAG
19 July 2006



MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER